



# **SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL**

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**WHERE KNOWLEDGE GROWS**

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Dear Federal Communications Commission,

I write to provide Comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate has been of great importance to Sylvan Union School District because it has supported our Statewide High Speed Network in California for education. This has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my district's future bandwidth needs. We have never been able to benefit from internal connections, as our discount rate is only 80%. As a result our network equipment is limited and our school infrastructure is dated. I urge you to consider raising the E-rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As a district in California, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a prerequisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high speed broadband is the key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

In my district we use digital learning to personalize learning, meet common core state standards, administer online assessments, and make data driven decisions. An example of digital learning in my district is our continued emphasis on cloud computing that encourages student and teacher access to resources and builds a year-to-year digital portfolio of student accomplishments.

My district network is currently failing to keep up with demand, and the need for a high-speed reliable network is only going to increase in the near future. Limited educational funding has resulted in sacrifices to technology with teachers utilizing outdated equipment and relegated to network infrastructure which limits student learning and instructional potential.

The E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.

Sincerely,

John Patten  
Director of Technology